



## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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#### NO CHANGE IN FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE REGIONS

No change will be made in the present regional pattern for the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service for sport fisheries and wildlife administration, it was announced today by Ross L. Leffler, new Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife of the Department of the Interior, at the first session of the annual winter meeting of the Service's regional directors.

There are presently five regions with headquarters at Atlanta, Georgia; Boston, Massachusetts; Minneapolis, Minnesota; Albuquerque, New Mexico; and Portland, Oregon, in addition to an Alaskan administrative area.

A proposal for the future creation of four regions within the United States following the pattern of the four flyways for migratory waterfowl which are the administrative responsibility of the Federal Government, was made in the first draft of the Fish and Wildlife Service reorganization plan which was revealed in November.

This planning was set in motion by Public Law 1024 of the 84th Congress last summer. It was pointed out by Secretary of the Interior Fred A. Seaton at the time copies of the first plan were distributed to the staff and various national conservation organizations for study that it was not final. He said it was subject to review of Interior's new Fish and Wildlife officials as soon as appointed, and would be revised wherever necessary. A complete re-examination of the plan began immediately after Assistant Secretary Leffler's appointment, and his announcement today followed.

Following the discussion of reorganization plans by the Assistant Secretary, the regional directors took up general problems of the Fish and Wildlife Service and then prepared to meet with the special task force which is developing an expanded federal conservation program for sport fisheries and wildlife.

During that conference they will submit regional suggestions for policies, objectives and projects. Later in the week they will hold their regular meetings with the Washington staffs of the various Service branches on current regional problems.